

Fig. 12. A fully developed sphero-stellate retentive spiculum with cylindro-subfoliate radii, magnified 530 linear.

13. A fully developed attenuato-stellate retentive spiculum, magnified 530 linear.

Geodia reticulata, Bowerbank.

Fig. 14 represents the type specimen parasitical on the remains of the stem of a fucus, natural size.

15. One of the fusiformi-acerate skeleton-spicula, magnified 80 linear.

16. A well-developed attenuato-patento-ternate connecting spiculum, magnified 80 linear.

17. A portion of one of the long and rather slender recurvo-ternate connecting-spicula, magnified 80 linear.

18. A portion of one of the porrecto-ternate connecting spicula, magnified 89 linear.

19. One of the attenuato-stellate retentive spicula, magnified 530 linear.

20. An average-sized cylindro-stellate retentive spiculum, magnified 530 linear.

PLATE XLVII.

Halispongia ventriculoides, Bowerbank.

Fig. 1. A small but very perfect specimen of the species, with the remarkable orifice at the base of the sponge, natural size.

2. A well-formed cup-shaped specimen of the species, with a fan-shaped offset attached to its base, natural size.

Halispongia Mantelli, Bowerbank.

Fig. 3 represents the type specimen of the species, natural size.

4. A section of *H. Mantelli* at right angles to its external and internal surfaces, exhibiting the reticular structure of the skeleton with the embedded particles of sand at both surfaces: *a*, the external surface; *b*, the internal one: magnified 60 linear.

8. On a small Collection of Birds from Bulama, one of the Bissagos Islands, W. Africa. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Senior Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received April 17, 1874.]

I am indebted to Major Bulger for the opportunity of examining a small collection made by his brother Lient. Bulger in Bulama Island; and as no one has before collected in the locality, I give a short list of the species. Major Bulger has sent me the following note on the locality whence these birds come, which I cannot do better than reproduce:—

“The Bissagos or Bijuga Islands lie on the west coast of Africa, between $11^{\circ} 40'$ and $10^{\circ} 50'$ N. lat., and $15^{\circ} 30'$ and $16^{\circ} 30'$ W. long., opposite the mouth of the river Bulola or Rio Grande. They form a group of about twenty islands, enclosed by a reef. Most of them are inhabited; but some are nearly bare rock, and only visited occasionally. The largest, Marshi, is above 15 miles long. The islands Carache, Corbele, Cazegut, Gallinas, Orango, Canyabac and Bulama are much smaller. On Bulama the English formed a settlement in 1792; but it was abandoned in 1793 on account of its un-

healthiness. These islands, which are of volcanic origin, have an excellent soil, composed chiefly of decomposed lava and vegetable matter. They are mostly covered with wood; but there are some natural savannas, and a few clear spaces, affording ample pasturage for innumerable elephants, deer, buffaloes, and other wild animals. The inhabitants cultivate some maize, and have plantations of bananas and palms; but their chief wealth consists of cattle and goats. It is remarkable that the hippopotamus is found in the straits which divide the islands of Canyabac and Bulama from the continent; there is no freshwater river within several miles.*

The avifauna of Bulama is, as might have been expected, thoroughly Senegambian, as far as we can judge from so small a collection as the present. The nearest point of Africa, Bissao, has been thoroughly explored by M. Beaudouin and other French naturalists; but I am not aware that any connected account of their collections has ever been published.

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| 1. <i>Asturina monogrammica.</i> | 11. <i>Terpsiphone nigriceps.</i> |
| 2. <i>Coracias abyssinica.</i> | 12. <i>Pholidauges leucogaster.</i> |
| 3. <i>Merops ægyptius.</i> | 13. <i>Euplectes flammiceps.</i> |
| 4. <i>Corythornis cyanostigma.</i> | 14. <i>Coliostruthus macrurus.</i> |
| 5. <i>Schizorhis africana.</i> | 15. <i>Hyphantornis luteolus.</i> |
| 6. <i>Nectarinia cyanocephala.</i> | 16. <i>Spermestes bicolor.</i> |
| 7. <i>Nectarinia cuprea.</i> | 17. <i>Estrela rufopicta.</i> |
| 8. <i>Nectarinia subcollaris.</i> | 18. <i>Treron calva.</i> |
| 9. <i>Laniarius barbarus.</i> | 19. <i>Turtur erythrophrys.</i> |
| 10. <i>Laniarius babbakiri.</i> | |

The collection contains a specimen of *Laniarius babbakiri*, apparently identical with South-African examples. This is the first time that this species has been known to occur in West Africa; and I was inclined to doubt its Bulama origin. Major Bulger, however, believes that it was collected with the other birds, but has kindly promised to inquire into the matter on his brother's return.

May 19, 1874.

Dr. E. Hamilton, V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of *Ciconia boyciana*, Swinhoe (P.Z.S. 1873, p. 513, and 1874, p. 2, Pl. I.), being that of one of the two specimens recently living in the Gardens†, and stated that he had received a communication from M. L. Taczanowski of Warsaw, C.M.Z.S., from which it would appear that this species was the ordinary White Stork of Eastern Siberia. The following was an extract from M. Taczanowski's letter. After stating that M. Severtzow had

* Life of Capt. Beaver by Smyth; and Capt. Belcher in the Journ. of the Geogr. Soc.

† This specimen is now in Lord Walden's collection.

distinguished it as a new species, he continued :—" Le Dr. Dybowski l'a rencontré en nombre assez considérable sur le fleuve Ussuri sous le 48° de lat. bor., où un certain nombre est resté pour l'hiver. Il dit dans sa lettre du Novembre 1873, qu'elles se nourrissent pendant cette saison de *Salmo leucomænis*, qui y ont péri en quantité après avoir frayé, et leurs cadavres se sont accumulés dans la glace ou ont été rejetés sur sa surface. Il a envoyé une peau d'un mâle tué le 17 Octobre 1873."

An extract was read from a letter of Dr. W. Peters, Foreign Member, in which it was stated that he had lately received from Panama a specimen of the very rare and curious Lizard described and figured in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1863 (p. 154, pl. xxi.) as *Poriodogaster grayi*, Smith; so that this would appear to be the true *patria* of this species, and not Lower California, as suggested by Dr. Gray.

An extract was read from a letter of Dr. J. Hector, C.M.Z.S., pointing out an error in his paper on *Cnemiornis calcitrans* (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 763). The words "weight" and "bulk" over the two columns in the table at the bottom of the page have been accidentally transposed, similar *bulks* of bone having been compared, which produce varying *weights*.

The table should stand as follows :—

	Bulk.	Weight.
1. <i>Cnemiornis</i>	10	244
2. <i>Ocydromus</i>	10	210
3. <i>Stringops</i>	10	187
4. <i>Nestor</i>	10	131
6. <i>Hieracidea</i>	10	126

showing that the humerus of *Cnemiornis* is by far the heaviest.

Prof. Newton exhibited and made remarks on two letters, the property of J. B. Wilmot, Esq., M.D., written from Mauritius 18 June, 1628, by Emanuel Altham, referring to a live Dodo which he was then sending to England.

A communication was read from Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., containing a list of the species of Feline Animals (*Felidæ*).

Mr. G. Busk, F.R.S., presented two communications from Mr. W. C. M'Intosh, of Murthly, Perthshire. The first of these was entitled, "Contributions to our knowledge of the British Annelida;" and the second contained the first portion of an account of the Annelida collected during the 'Porcupine' Expeditions of 1869 and 1870.

These papers will be printed in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read :—